United Nations S/2003/15

Security Council

Distr.: General
8 January 2003

Original: English

Letter dated 26 December 2002 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Counter-Terrorism Committee has received the attached report from the Central African Republic submitted pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1373 (2001) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jeremy **Greenstock**
Chairman
Counter-Terrorism Committee

03-20791 (E) 150103 170103

Annex

[Original: French]

Letter dated 19 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Central African Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

I have the honour to transmit herewith to the Counter-Terrorism Committee the report of the Central African Republic on preventive measures for combating terrorism, which was drawn up in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) (see enclosure).

(*Signed*) Fernand **Poukré-Kono**

Enclosure

[Original: French]

Report on preventive measures for combating terrorism in the Central African Republic

The phenomenon of terrorism, which has gained ground in a large part of the world, has attracted the attention of the Central African authorities for a number of years, particularly since 1986, when a terrorist of Lebanese nationality carried out an attack on board a regular flight to Chad after having passed through our country, the Central African Republic.

Since that time, heightened surveillance measures have been taken both on the borders and within the national territory.

In this connection, in order to prevent this phenomenon, Act No. 01.0011 on the adoption of the harmonized law on drug control, extradition and mutual judicial assistance in the field of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, promulgated in 2001, provided, in articles 135, 136, 137 and 138, for a number of measures to facilitate the detection of money-laundering and punish the perpetrators.

After the attack of 11 September 2001 and in accordance with Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), these preventive measures for combating terrorism were strengthened as never before.

Accordingly, a planned so-called peaceful march in support of the terrorist Osama bin Laden, scheduled for October 2001 by the Central African Islamic community, was nipped in the bud thanks to the vigilance of the police services and the organizers of this planned demonstration are being kept under surveillance by those services after having been given a stern warning.

During 2002, three Lebanese persons residing in Bangui were suspected of belonging to Osama bin Laden's terrorist network and were the subject of tight checks by the police services with Interpol.

These persons are:

- Bilal Aref, born around 1964 in Adhit, Lebanon, to El Sariba Aref and Subrieh, of Lebanese nationality, a shopkeeper by occupation;
- Safi Aref Saleh, born around 1973 in Beirut, Lebanon, to Saleh Aref and Sophie, of Lebanese nationality, a shopkeeper by occupation;
- Bilal Aref, born around 1967 in Adonit, Lebanon, to Aref Saleh and Sogni Al Sayed, of Lebanese nationality, a shopkeeper by occupation.

Another Lebanese, Ali-Abdulikarim, born on 15 May 1980 in Bentsbeil, Lebanon, and in charge of supplies at SEFCA (Societé Forestière en Centrafrique), suspected of having demonstrated a questionable attitude in front of the United States Embassy on 5 April 2002 while travelling in a Mitsubishi pick-up truck, licence No. 21645 BG, was brought in for questioning and interrogated before being released.

Although the aforementioned checks proved fruitless, the activities of these four individuals are nevertheless the subject of heightened, ongoing monitoring by the police services.

The Central African Republic is prepared to cooperate closely with the international community in the relentless struggle against the scourge of terrorism, which spares no country in the world, be it a small one or a great Power.

(*Signed*) Joseph **Monzoule**